

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075852
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 PA-01 USIA-06
/039 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:EESVENDSEN:GAR

APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP

AF/S:RDOUTHARD

AF/W:JWHITING

NCS:TTHORNTON

S/S:SGOLDSMITH

-----115008 240523Z /11

P 240222Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPCD, LI

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

REF: A) STATE 071820; B) MONROVIA 1710

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT FROM PRESIDENT CARTER IN LIEU OF REFTEL A. SIGNED ORIGINAL DATED MARCH 21 FOLLOWS: QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT CONCERNING OUR EFFORTS TO HELP SOLVE THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF ZIMBABWE.

2. I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE MUST NOW ENGAGE ALL THE CONCERNED PARTIES IN EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THEIR DIFFERENCES. I SHARE WITH YOU THE GOAL OF A SETTLEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR A GENUINE AND FAIR TRANSFER OF POWER TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MAJORITY. THE UNITED STATES HAS REFRAINED FROM CONDEMNING THE SALISBURY NEGOTIATIONS, BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT THIS WOULD NOT FOSTER A SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION AMONG THE PARTIES. INSTEAD, WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED AS POSITIVE THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STATING CLEARLY THAT

THE AGREEMENT IS INADEQUATE AS AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

3. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OTHER NATIONS, PARTICULARLY OAU MEMBERS, USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDES. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE. HOWEVER, WE INTEND TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO BRING SUCH A MEETING ABOUT.

4. I AM PLEASED THAT YOU SHARE OUR DESIRE FOR A MEETING OF THIS KIND AND I APPRECIATE YOUR STEADFAST SUPPORT OF NEGOTIATIONS AS THE BEST PATH TO A FAIR SETTLEMENT. I KNOW THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO RELY ON YOUR WISDOM AND CANDOR IN THIS MATTER.

5. IN PURSUIT OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE HORN, WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION TO BRING ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TOGETHER TO SEEK A DURABLE AND JUST SOLUTION OF THEIR DISPUTE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO FURTHER THOSE EFFORTS.

6. THE UNITED STATES REMAINS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DANGER TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE REGION POSED BY THE EXCESSIVE PRESENCE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN COMBAT FORCES IN ETHIOPIA. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO SOVIET
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AUTHORITIES THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE DEPARTURE FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY OF SOMALI FORCES, WE EXPECT AN EARLY AND SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET ADVISORS AND CUBAN COMBAT FORCES. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA HAVE ACQUIRED A PARTICULAR OBLIGATION TO INSURE THAT THE PACIFICATION OF THE REGION PROCEEDS WITH MAGNANIMITY.

7. I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR UPCOMING MEETING, AND TO CONTINUING OUR INTERCHANGE THEN IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND GOOD WILL WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SINCERELY,
(SIGNED) JIMMY CARTER UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE075852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESVENDSEN:GAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780129-0944
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780328/aaaaaxan.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63c7adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 71820, 78 MONROVIA 1710
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3210641
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZIMBABWE AND THE HORN OF AFRICA
TAGS: PPDC, LI, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R)
To: MONROVIA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63c7adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014